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SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP IN ROME: CONSULTATION ON DEPOLITICIZATION
OF UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

REF: STATE 017162

SUMMARY - GENEVA GROUP IN ROME WAS BRIEFED FEBRUARY 10 ON
GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATION LEVEL XII MEETING, INCLUDING
ISSUE OF POLITICIZATION OF UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. U.S.
REPRESENTATIVE INFORMED OTHERS HE IS SUGGESTING TO HIS GOVERN-
MENT THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO REACTIVATING GROUP B IN
ROME, NOT TO REPLACE GENEVA GROUP BUT TO SERVE AS BROADER
AND LESS RESTRICTED BASE FOR CONSULTATION AS REQUIRED IN
CONNECTION WITH WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MEETING AND PRELIMINARY
MARCH MEETINGS OF FAO COUNCIL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE
OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM. END SUMMARY

1. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO REPORTED TO GENEVA GROUP IN
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ROME FEBRUARY 10 ON GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATION LEVEL XII MEET-

ING IN GENEVA, PRESENTING GROUP WITH DRAFT NOTE WHICH WILL
LATER BE RECEIVED IN EDITED FORM. GROUP READILY ACCEPTED
DIRECTION TO MONITOR BUDGET INCREASE PROPOSALS SEVERELY.
DELEGATION THAT IN GENEVA TOOK POSITION THAT WORLD FOOD
CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS DO NOT JUSTIFY BUDGET INCREASES WAS
IDENTIFIED AS GERMAN, BUT NETHERLANDS REPRESENTATIVE POINTED
OUT THAT HIS AND SEVERAL OTHER DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA HAD TAKEN
POSITION THAT NEW FUNCTIONS SHOULD BE OFFSET, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE,
BY REDUCTIONS IN OTHER EXPENDITURES.

2. ON ISSUE OF POLITICIZATION OF UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, U.S.
REPRESENTATIVE CONFINED HIMSELF TO REFERRING TO DRAFT NOTE,
AND ATTACHING U.S. PAPER, AS NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND DISCUSSION.
HE DID NOT ELICIT DISCUSSION. JAPANESE DELEGATE VOLUNTEERED
COMMENT THAT THEY FULLY SUPPORTED U. S. VIEW. AUSTRALIAN DELE-
GATE ASKED WHAT POSITION HIS DELEGATION HAD TAKEN, AND U.S.
REPRESENTATIVE SUMMARIZED STRONG SUPPORT AUSTRALIA HAD GIVEN
U.S. POSITION IN GENEVA TALKS.

3. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE INFORMED COLLEAGUES HE PLANNED RECOMMEND
TO HIS GOVERNMENT THAT IT CONSULT WITH OTHERS TO REACTIVATE
GROUP B IN ROME, AS IN THIRD PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR WORLD
FOOD CONFERENCE AND WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE ITSELF, TO BROADEN
COUNTRIES INVOLVED AND REMOVE STRICTURES OF GENEVA
GROUP CONSULTATION TO BUDGET AND PROGRAM ONLY, NOW THAT WORLD
FOOD COUNCIL AND RELEVANT FAO AND WORLD FOOD PROGRAMS ARE
APPROACHING, IN WHICH SOME MEASURE OF POLITICAL CONSULTATION
WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.

4. SOME EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT ACTIVATION OF GROUP B.
AUSTRALIA COMMENTED THAT ITS BOB SWIFT HAD OPPOSED IT. FRANCE
ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SAID HE BELIEVED
U.S. GOVERNMENT FULLY SHARES OTHERS' CONCERNS NOT TO BE FORCED
BY G-77 INTO BLOC POLITICKING. IDEA IS TO HAVE BROADER AND
LESS-RESTRICTIVE BASE FOR CONSULTATION AS NEEDED, ESPECIALLY
FOR GUIDANCE OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH APPROPRIATE LDC
COUNTERPARTS, WITHOUT COMPROMISING CHASTITY OF GENEVA GROUP.
NONE DEMURRED FROM THIS VIEW, AND SEVERAL EXPRESSED SUPPORT.

5. RECOMMENDATION - THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONSULT WITH
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OTHER GOVERNMENTS WITH VIEW TO REACTIVATING GROUP B IN ROME,
FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, AND FOR RELEVANT IMPORTANT MEETINGS
SUCH AS FAO COUNCIL IN MARCH, AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE
OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, WHICH MUST BE RECONSTITUTED AS FOOD
AID COMMITTEE OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. PROCEDURE FOLLOWED IN
1974 WAS DECISION IN BRUSSELS AND PARIS TO USE GROUP B IN ROME
IN WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, IMPLEMENTED BY CURRENT CHAIRMAN.
IF IMPLEMENTING ACTION IS REQUIRED HERE THIS TIME, WE WILL

NEED PRECISE INSTRUCTION, INCLUDING IDENTIFICATION OF CURRENT
CHAIRMAN. WE SUGGEST IT BE MADE CLEAR THAT GROUP B WILL NOT
SUPPLANT GENEVA GROUP, WILL NOT BE HIGHLY ACTIVE AS COUNTERPART
TO G-77, AND WILL BE VERY MUCH SUBJECT TO GUIDANCE OF ITS
CURRENT CHAIRMAN IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS. VOLPE

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